

this material for long distances lies in its lightness, which causes shipping firms to take it only by measurement.

I am indebted to the *Imperial Institute Bulletin* for most of the facts regarding the commercial aspect of the product.

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## TROUT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA

BY F. J. JACKSON.

Readers of this journal will doubtless be interested to hear that whilst camped on the Aberdare Range on August 28 last, I succeeded in catching five trout, and rising five or six others. The fish were all taken with a small grouse wing fly and within a distance of 150 yards down stream of the footbridge that crosses the Gura stream, and within a very short distance of the site of the hatchery, which was further up stream. The stream itself is little more than 2 feet in width, except here and there where it widens out into small pools of perhaps 4 feet in width. The fish, all brown trout, varied from 8 to 6 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches in length, and were little over a quarter of a pound in weight, and were probably hatched out from the same consignment of ova.

As I saw nothing larger or smaller than these fish and was anxious to obtain evidence of others, Mr. Guy Baker of the Forestry Department very kindly undertook to try to obtain further evidence. Mr. Baker's efforts were successful, and he sent me a small brown trout 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, and another of 9 inches. This latter appears to differ from the brown trout in being much more silvery, besides having a rounder and proportionately shorter head, and it may be a rainbow trout. But what is of still more interest, as tending to show that it is probable that the fish have already begun to breed, is a photograph by Mr. Baker of a fish 15 inches in length and 15 $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. in weight.

Mr. Baker informs me that all his fish were caught with a fly, and within three miles of the site of the hatchery.

November 1909.

[The above information should give great satisfaction to the gentlemen who subscribed to the Trout Acclimatisation Association, as it practically proves that their public-spirited action has resulted in success, and that the trout are now well established in the streams on the Aberdare Range. Their progress should, however, be carefully watched, and numbers of young fish should be transferred to other streams on the range and to the head waters of the Morendat and Gil-gil rivers, and later on efforts should be made to establish them in the streams rising on the Mau plateau. Possibly members of the Society will be able to assist in this work.—EDITOR.]

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## STRANGE CASE OF SNAKE BITE

BY FRANCIS BURMEISTER.

Last month the Masai who herds the sheep on my farm on the shore of Lake Naivasha saw a half-bred lamb with a snake hanging on to its nose.

He promptly killed the snake, and as I happened to be passing, he ran to tell me.

I first looked at the snake and saw that it was a small puff adder, and then at the lamb, and noticed the beads of blood on the nostrils where the fangs had struck.

Naturally I expected to see the lamb fall over in convulsions and die, and told the Masai so.

He, however, propounded the following quaint theory.

As he had caught the snake and killed it outright the lamb would not die ; if, however, the snake had escaped and lived, the lamb would have died at once.

Knowing that immediately the adder struck, all the poison in the glands had been ejected, I was incredulous.

However, beyond some subsequent swelling of the head and neck, the lamb suffered no inconvenience.

I am entirely at a loss to account for it, as I am certain it was a puff adder, about eighteen inches long.

Perhaps some one will enlighten me ?